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***Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ  
8 AM EDT Tuesday, September 21, 2004***

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period September 28, 2004, through October 4, 2004, is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to total below normal.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 67 degrees north, 68 degrees central, and 69 degrees south.

\*Departure from normal.  
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, 2004, total and departure from normal or long term average.  
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

Fall Cover Crop Planting Underway

Days suitable for field work for the week ending Sunday, September 19, 2004, were 6.2. Soil moisture was rated 20% short, 70% adequate, and 10% surplus. Fieldwork included harvesting field corn for grain, corn silage, hay, fruit, and vegetables. Planting of fall harvest cover crops were done where conditions allowed. Some alfalfa fields were cut for the fourth time this season. Field corn for grain harvest began in a few fields. Strawberry planting activities were finishing up in most localities. Moldy pasture forage caused several cases of salivation syndrome. Some animals suffered severe dehydration from ingesting moldy pasture forage.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2004

Acorn & Spaghetti Squash - Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product.

Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach - Harvesting in good quality and volume.

Basil - Harvesting good quality and volume until the weather gets cooler later in the month, around 40F.

Beets - Harvesting good quality and volume.

Broccoli - Harvesting good quality in fair to increasing quantity in Central New Jersey.

Butternut Squash -Harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality product.

Cabbage - Good quality Red, Savoy, and Green being harvested in major quantities.

Cilantro & Parsley - Harvesting good quality and volume.

Cranberries - Coming on quickly though they need some cool weather to put on some color. Though the main harvest won't start until the beginning of October, the increasing demand for white cranberries has seen some berries harvested already. We will have increased amounts of high quality dry harvested red and white berries available this year.

Cucumbers - Harvesting good quality and volume with a nice fall crop.

Dill & Spinach - Harvesting fair to good quality of Spinach and Dill in fair to increasing volume with the fall crop beginning its harvesting.

Eggplant - Harvesting very good quality product in good volume.

Escarole/Endive - Harvesting a fair to increasing volume of good quality product with the fall crop beginning its harvesting.

Green Onions - Good quality and fair to good volume.

Greens - Good quality and volume of Collards, Kholrabi, Kale, Mustard, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard.

Leeks - Good quality being harvested in good volume.

Lettuces - Beginning to harvest good quality Boston & Green & Red Leaf lettuces. It will be another week before good volume

exists. Look for harvests of Romaine to begin later this week with volume available the week after that.

Iceberg lettuce will start at the beginning of next week with volume building over the next week or so.

Peaches - The season is finished though some smaller north New Jersey growers should probably have another week or so to go.

Peppers -Harvesting very good quality product in good volume. We also have an excellent assortment of great quality hot peppers available. It's been a very good growing season for hot peppers.

Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) - Good quality and quantity available.

Pumpkins - We'll have less supply again this year with wholesale prices proportionately higher. The cool and wet spring caused late planting and a light fruit set. Then we had some periods of steady mid-summer rainfall that led to disease producing conditions. Know your pumpkin grower, as growers who stuck to their spray schedules seem to have very good to excellent quality.

Squashes - Fair to good quality Yellow and Zucchini are being harvested in fair to increasing quantities with fall product starting to come in.

Sweet Corn - Harvesting fair to good quality in fair to decreasing availability from now on. Quality will vary now due to fall insect pressures.

Sweet Potatoes - Harvesting good quality in fair to increasing quantities.

Tomatoes - Good quantity and very good quality available. Plum tomatoes are also available in good volume with similar very good quality.

White Potatoes - The Redskin variety Norland and Superior round white varieties being harvested. There is a large crop of good quality potatoes this year. Source your New Jersey white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags. A number of chain stores have made large displays of these and they've sold quite well.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Brussel Sprouts - Should begin harvesting in central New Jersey by October 10, 2004.

Cauliflower - Should begin harvesting by October 1, 2004, in central New Jersey.